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over by the desperado Aguirre, he sacrifices something of the vividness of the original narrative, evidently for the sake of maintaining the proportion of the narratives. It must, however, be granted that a book cannot well be criticized for the lack of what it does not purport to be.

There are few so well fitted as Padre Zahm to write the story of El Dorado. "Only those", he writes, "who have traversed the regions visited by the dauntless adventurers who took part in the expeditions described in the following pages can fully realize the magnitude of the task which they essayed". He himself has traveled "up the Orinoco and down the Magdalena", "along the Andes and down the Amazon", and "through South America's southland",—to enumerate the titles of three earlier works. That comprehends most of the vast area over which men of the *conquista* period searched for El Dorado. And in most of that region the natural conditions of travel are much as they were in the days of the Pizarros and Quesadas. "They struggled with many obstacles in the shape of mighty rivers and morasses which they could not wade through", says the old chronicle of Gonzalo Pizarro's expedition into the *montaña* country. And again, "On account of the constant waters from above and below, they were always wet, and their clothes rotted, so that they had to go naked. . . . The thorns and undergrowth of those dense forests cruelly tore them, and made them look as if they had been flayed."

As for errors in the book: the early historian was Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo, and not Gonzalo Fernando (p. 26); and Gonzalo Pizarro was full brother, and not half-brother, of Francisco (p. 37).

WILLIAM LYTTLE SCHURZ.

Santiago de Cuba and its District (1607-1640). Written from Documents in the Archive of the Indies, at Seville, Spain, by I. A. WRIGHT. (Madrid: Establecimiento Tipográfico de Felipe Peña Cruz, 1918. Pp. 207, [i]; paper.)

Miss Wright, who has made research concerning the Island of Cuba peculiarly her own, has here furnished another volume to historical students that is, in its greater part, prime source material. The book, as indicated in the title, deals entirely with the eastern part of the island, and is divided into two parts. The first part of sixty-four pages, is (with the exception of the preliminary pages) a short discussion of the activities of the governors of the district for the period 1607-1640, namely, Juan de Villaverde Ureta, Francisco Sanchez de Moya, Juan Garcia Nabia, Rodrigo de Velasco, Pedro de Fonseca

Betancur, Juan de Amezqueta Quijano, and Pedro Roca de Borja. The second part is an appendix of twenty-six documents, which were copied from the originals in the Archivo General de Indias.

In her preface, the author anticipates criticism by the statement that the first part is "unsatisfactory in every respect", yet thinks that "the work, poorly proportioned as it is, is nevertheless worth while, if only for its appendix"; and students will agree with her in both statements. Due to her research (although the work is confessedly a by-product), Miss Wright is "convinced that material for an adequate history of Santiago and its district in the period covered does not exist"—a rather rash statement to make, for documents pertaining to Spanish America have a way of turning up when least expected. As an instance of this, one of the most striking finds of recent years was that by Professor Shepherd of General Wilkinson's oath of allegiance to the Spanish government which was found tucked away in a document on trade in the Archivo de Indias.

The period covered in the volume is called the third period of the history of the city and its district. The first period, according to Miss Wright, was that from 1511 (or 1510) to 1550, or from the date of the arrival in Cuba of Diego de Velazquez to the removal of the official residence to Havana; the second from 1550 to 1607, when the government of the island was divided; while the third period is made to end with the greater recognition by Spain of the eastern part of the island—a recognition forced by piratical visits in 1635. This division is logical. The treatment of the subject matter is best described by the author as "sketchy", but the narrative is based on actual manuscript material, much of which is presented in the appendix, while footnotes refer to other documents. However, the question as to whether the matter itself is worth more extensive treatment, even if other documents are discovered, might be successfully defended on the negative side, for the history of this period has little to offer; and the study would be one mostly of detail, as few matters possess more than a local interest, and the documents now accessible present the same sort of evidence as do those of many other regions of Spanish America that are more important. The latter part of the narrative is given a touch of color and of wider interest by the references to the exploits of the Dutchman Jols who was known throughout the Indies as Peg-Leg the Pirate, and these are related in the breezy manner of Miss Wright's other writings. The reader of the narrative portion will agree with Miss Wright that this "work . . . is . . . the most complete account yet given

. . . and it rests, as the documents of the Appendix will suggest, upon very stable foundations in sources."

The documents are of a miscellaneous nature, and include letters and reports of the governors, the bishop, and municipal and ecclesiastical cabildos. In selecting documents for publication, Miss Wright used an arbitrary method that can scarcely be defended. In her "Foreword" she says: "Documents referring to Santiago and its district through these years which have been preserved at Seville are not sufficient, in number or content, to enable the investigator to present any completer account. Therefore, since a choice had to be made, it has fallen upon documents originating in Cuba. This, despite the fact that certain others, which originated in Spain and are not presented,—one or two *consultas*, for instance,—are of indubitably greater historical value than for instance, Documents Nos. 24 and 25". The criticism that Miss Wright herself here makes should have prevented the blind following of any arbitrary method. Documents are presented only in the original Spanish, which considerably limits the use that can be made of them. While the real student always prefers the original language of the document, the publication of foreign documents without an accompanying literal translation often limits the great majority of readers to the interpretation of others, if the documents are accompanied by a narrative. It is also unfortunately true that a certain percentage of readers and students with a more or less perfect knowledge of the language of documents, either through mental laziness or lack of time, pay scant heed to them.

There are certain criticisms to be made in the physical make-up of the volume. Although printed in a language strange to the printers there are, however, surprisingly few typographical errors in the English narrative. Foreign words have been set in the midst of the English words in heavy black-faced type instead of in the lighter italic and the narrative portion of the volume has the appearance of advertising matter. The author has not been sparing in her use of the original Spanish words in her narrative. Such expressions as "los señores de hatos", "teniente letrado", "armadilla", and others for instance, might better have been translated. The author permits herself also the luxury of a preface, a foreword, and an introduction, in the first two of which there is some duplication of material. The contents page would have been better had the documents of the appendix been designated otherwise than merely by their number and an index would have made the matter in the volume much more accessible. In her dedication of this

work to "Mr. Roland Ray Conklin in America and to Sr. D. Diego Gomez Quintana in Spain", Miss Wright describes these men as "strong influences at work for knowledge and for amity between men and nations which true knowledge inspires". This reviewer believes that one of the chief values of the study of the Spanish colonial period as well as of the period of the Hispanic American countries is the correction of prejudice and the inculcation of a saner judgment.

JAMES ALEXANDER ROBERTSON.